

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Hyatt Place to operate executive hotel in Aruba's Main Street



P.M. Mike Eman with Minister of Infrastructure Benny Sevinger

ORANJESTAD -- Last April representatives of the prestigious hotel chain Hyatt visited Aruba to evaluate the possibility of operating a hotel in Aruba's Main Street. Last week it was confirmed that Hyatt will be the operator

tribute to the development in the main street and lift up the level as a touristic and commercial attraction. Also the number of persons walking the down town area will become more. A well occupied hotel will guarantee activity in the area as well as activate commerce and entertainment.

The brand 'Hyatt Place' was created for multi-blenders with 24/7 lifestyles seeking a select-service hotel that will allow them to balance work and play. Hyatt Place is a new generation of hotels that offer casual hospitality in a smartly designed, high-tech and modern environment.

of the executive hotel in the downtown Main Street. This hotel, reportedly, will fall under the successful brand of the Hyatt Place Corporation.

The government made this announcement last Thursday during a press conference. This hotel, according to the government, will greatly con-

The 'Hyatt Place' has earned various prizes and worldwide recognition including the "Highest in Guest Satisfaction Among Upscale Hotel Chains," according to J.D. Power. Hyatt Place also stands as the #1 Select Service Brand by Business Travel News 2013 Hotel Chain Survey for the second consecu-

tive year.

Last April representatives of Hyatt evaluated the property with the investors and determined that their design was to their satisfaction. They like the hotel design which fits in with the renovation of the city center and is the perfect location for an executive hotel.

Developers of the project have continued with the execution of the first phase, among others, with the measurements and testing of the ground.

## Obama highlights desire for vast Pacific trade deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House sent a strong signal Monday of its desire to create a huge Pacific free trade area, despite the slippage of its year-end deadline for the 12-nation project.

President Barack Obama gathered senior trade advisors in the Oval Office and invited news photographers to document the meeting, in the wake of the latest ministerial talks last week on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Singapore.

"This remains a top priority of the president because of the positive economic benefits that come from it," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

"Congress and the American public have high expectations for the TPP.

"The administration is determined to get the best deal possible, and we are pleased with the progress made towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard agreement."

Ministers gave up last week on meeting the year-end goal of concluding the TPP, but US Trade Representative Michael Froman, who was in Singapore, and in Obama's Oval Office consultations on Monday, said significant progress had been made.

Hopes for a swift conclusion of the TPP were dealt a



President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden meet with U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington

blow when Obama was forced to delay his latest trip to Asia in October over a political crisis in Washington over a government shutdown.

The White House has already announced that the president will return to Asia in April, a trip that may offer new momentum to TPP talks, a centerpiece of Obama's "rebalancing" towards Asia strategy.

The TPP is being negotiated by Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

The potential members make up 40 percent of the global economy and other countries may join the pact later.

Snags have appeared in negotiations on a number of issues, including opening up Japan's auto and farm markets, government procurement and limiting the role of state-owned enterprises.

Patent issues -- in particular on medicines -- have also been a sticking point.

Obama's meeting on Monday also included Vice President Joe Biden, who was in Asia earlier this month, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker.

The talks also focused on Obama's push to convince Congress to offer him Trade Promotion Authority -- which would allow him to fast-track trade deals through Congress.

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## SETAR N.V. ends their year-long anniversary celebration with the Xmas Bazaar



annual holiday party for all the island. The SETAR Christmas Bazaar, which took place at their Sabana Blanco Headquarters this past Sunday.

The Christmas Bazaar traditionally draws long lines of bargain hunters, and this year, despite intermittent downpours, determined technophiles were lined up around the block to take advantage of the great deals to be had that day. Sort of Aruba's answer to Black Friday, but far more civil, even congenial, punctuated by entertainment and food stalls.

To further emphasize that the day was not only about shopping for cell phones, but a grand celebration of SETAR's 10th anniversary, the company did not open their doors until noon. "It is a long, exhausting day for the employees, who give their all, so we decided to make it more pleasant for them," commented SETAR Managing Director Roland Croes. "It is also nicer for those coming to shop. They don't have to get up so early on a Sunday morning to be first in the door

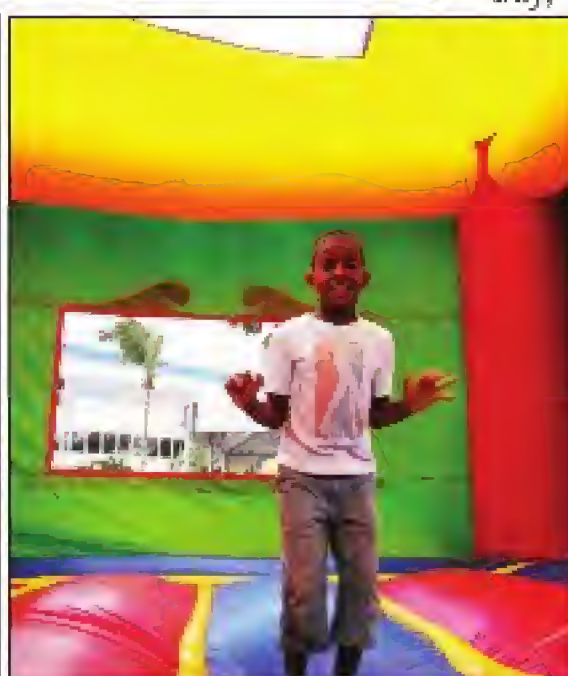
for the best buys."

Savings were spectacular on basic, simple phones starting at only 19 Aruban florins (\$11), for great stocking stuffers. The really hot item was an Android tablet with a case and keyboard for only 299 Aruban florins, (\$178) which included a free Mi-fi device for getting connected anywhere, anytime. This must-have item will be under a lot of trees this holiday.

Though the sales office

closed at 7 PM, the community celebration continued until 10, with hot local bands like Youth Extreme and every Gaita group in Aruba. The rousing, regional holiday music livened up the festivities and drew islanders until well after dark, to show their support for Aruba's principal communications service provider.

By Rosalie Klein



ORANJESTAD -- 2013 marked ten years since the privatization of SETAR N.V., Aruba's national telecommunications company. During that time, great advances in the island's services have

been made, including the latest, installation of LTE technology for mobile devices.

The company has been celebrating the entire year, with monthly promotions and events, culminating in their

annual holiday party for all the island. The SETAR Christmas Bazaar, which took place at their Sabana Blanco Headquarters this past Sunday.



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## During the “Airline Appreciation Party” organized by AAA: Delta Airlines received the Airline Marketing Award 2013



ORANJESTAD – During the annual “Airline Appreciation Party” held at Cellar 23, Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) gave a special award to Delta Airlines.

Every year AAA’s Airline Marketing department hosts a special night to thank all the airline partners for their ef-

forts during the past year. AAA recognizes that the success of the company relies on the efforts of each airline operating at the airport. AAA’s CEO Mr. Peter Steinmetz emphasized on this aspect when he directed himself to all the airline representatives present during this event. At the same

time Mr. Steinmetz gave a recap of 2013 and also informed on the plans for 2014.

Every airline gives their best efforts to constantly improve their performance, but there is always one that stands out. It’s already a yearly tradition that AAA gives a special award to the airline that stood out the most and this year the award was given to Delta Airlines who during 2013 added the most seat capacity. Ms. Roxanne Romnit was extremely happy when she received the award from Mr. Steinmetz and Ms. Jo-Anne Arends who is in charge of the Airline Marketing department.

The pictures illustrate the great moments experienced by the guests. Congratulations Delta Airlines!

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## *Giants Baseball Organization celebrates a winning year for their Little League teams*



**A little leaguer since 5, Ross Ismael just signed with the Cincinnati Reds**  
**ORANJESTAD** -- The coaches, managers and sponsors of Giants Baseball Organization think of themselves as one big family, and they celebrated the season as such at the brand new "O" Restaurant and Lounge in Paseo Herencia Mall on Saturday, December 14.

Joining them in feting the exuberant young players was their new official sponsor, Compra NV, who provided new names and uniforms for the teams now dubbed Koolaid, Oreo, Choq, Chips Ahoy and Tang. Another



**MVP and some members of his winning team**

highlight of the year was the formation of the Giants Baseball Organization Aruba Foundation. Its purpose is to provide training, facilities and materials for local kids, enabling them to develop their baseball skills.

The Organization President, Benjamin Francees, enjoyed playing host to the teams, and honoring outstanding achievement over the past year. He is particularly proud of their 11-12 age players who won the Aruba Little League Championship title, to represent the island at the Caribbean Championships in Bonaire. Most importantly, they participated with all 6 teams in the official ABBA tournament and the Little League Championships for players age nine and through twelve. Medals were awarded to all the young players of the Giants, with special recognition for particular achievement.

Coach Reangelo Koolman was named MVP of the year. He coaches the Giants Koolaid team, ages 5-6, which began in June as a new team. Because of his dedication and love for the kids and baseball, they were able to make it all the way to the finals, which will be played in January.

Paseo Herencia General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho was recognized as "Baseball Mom of the Year," and was awarded a plaque by President Benjamin Francees and Treasurer Rivelino Barret.

Finally, in closing the formal part of the evening, they welcomed a special guest who also started his baseball career with the Giants, at age five. Recently, Ross Ismael is the latest Aruban player to be recruited by U.S. Major League Baseball, signing with the Cincinnati Reds.

The organization has hosted a num-



**Valerie Pietersz Camacho Baseball Mom of the Year**



ber of social events for the players, allowing all ages to mix and mingle. They expressed they were greatly pleased with the food and ambiance at "O," along with entertainment by Edjean Semeleer and Grupo di Gaita Katatumbo.

Plans for 2014 are to con-

tinue with training, starting January 6. Their teams participate in the ABBA league and the Little League Championship, which they hope to win, in order to once again represent Aruba in the Caribbean Playoffs.

**By Rosalie Klein**



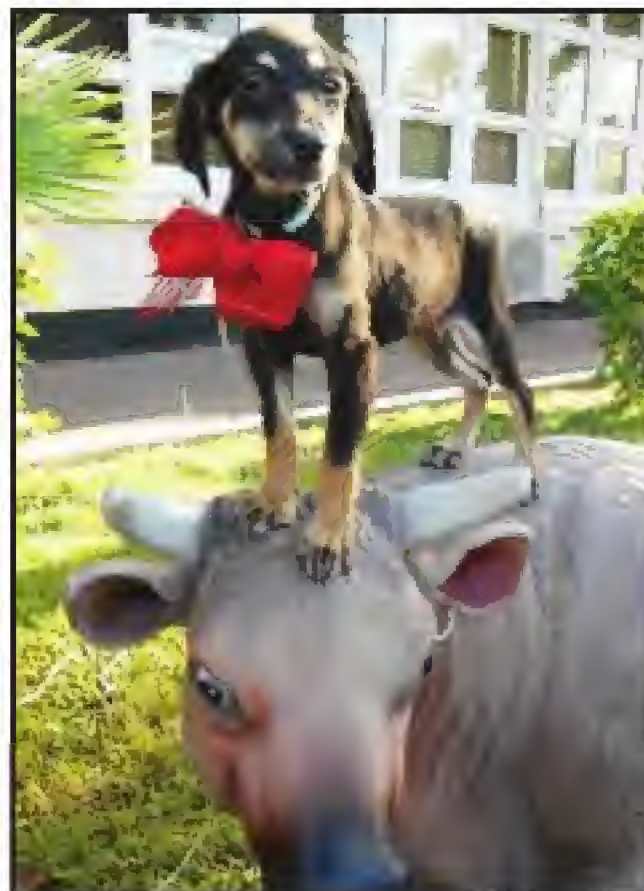


## Cas Animal Cont'd

### Happy Holidays from Cas Animal and all their rescued puppies



Happy Holidays from Cas Animal



Aaron is in need of a good home

ORANJESTAD -- Kirsten Arndt, founder of Cas Animal Foundation of Aruba is dedicated to rescuing dogs off-island streets. No matter how badly injured or weakened by disease, she has discovered hundreds of times over that with proper medical care they can be rehabilitated to be a wonderful companion to a

Cas Animal wishes all their supporters a very happy holiday season and a wonderful 2014. Kirsten expressed her gratitude to the many who have adopted their foundlings, making 2013 one of the most successful years to date in placing puppies in good homes. Quite a few have traveled to new digs with adoring companions in the U.S. and Europe, and are enjoying a white Christmas this year. In particular, she thanks Contreras Veterinary Clinics for sharing her philosophy that dogs deserve a chance for a happy life, and do not deserve to be put down for the slightest reason.

Unfortunately, not all those rescued are taken in by a loving family. This is why she has made constructing the first absolutely no-kill animal shelter on Aruba her mission in life. She dedicates all her time and has consigned all her assets to this goal. Kiki is seen her with one of her permanent residents, Sam, a very playful, affectionate Filo-mix, whose size daunted those in the neighborhood where he was abandoned.

Fortunately, they called Kiki, who found little wrong with the dog aside from being covered in ticks, and the ane-

mia this produces. Some medication and kind attention restored this decidedly good-natured canine's pleasing personality, and he adores Kiki, her friends, and her new apprentice, Stephanie.

Sam and a new found puppy, Aaron, were taken for an outing at the Nativity scene in front of Aruba's gov-



New Volunteer Stephanie with Sam

ernment house, for a holiday photo shoot. Aaron is an adorable young pup rescued from the backwoods of Santa Cruz, along with his other unwanted litter mates. Residents of the community heard the puppies crying and fortunately called Kirsten, who has found homes for most of them. Aaron is healthy and affectionate, and would make some responsible child a lovely companion this Christmas.

While awaiting permission to break ground on her formal shelter, which is eminent, Kirsten has converted her home into a temporary

sanctuary. Presently, she cares for around 50 dogs she has rescued, with the ever-present hope of placing them in good homes. Whether they are adopted or not, she continues to care for and love them, despite lost limbs from accidents, or a missing eye. They have a happy life and the companionship they crave. She is working diligently to build her dream facility, which will eventually accommodate up to 250 dogs.

Anyone who may be interested in adopting can, even if you are not an island resident. Call Kirsten at 742-8732 and she will help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take home one of our sweet, affectionate cunucu dogs, who make excellent watch dogs, too. As this story demonstrates, this is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of Aruba by the loving new members of their households.

The medical and feeding costs of rescued animals is never ending. Those wishing to support Kirsten's work with donations can do so in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call; 587-0917, or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. Kirsten maintains an animal ambulance, so also call her to report a dog in distress.

By Rosalie Klein



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## Loyal visitors honored at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Jack and Mrs. Debra Cottrell from Rock City Falls NY and Mr. Michael and Mrs. Karen Hartman from Cherry Hill NJ. Both couples are loyal quests of the Marriott Resorts and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home, the employees at the Marriott are like a family to them and the Resort is their home away from home.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with friends from the Cottrell's couple and Ms. Keirsin Tjonpiangi representing the Aruba Marriott Resorts.



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## US judge grants ex-UBS banker \$9 mn bail

NEW YORK (AFP) - A US judge Monday freed a former UBS executive on \$9 million bail while he awaits trial on charges that he helped Americans avoid millions in US taxes, his attorney said.

Raoul Weil, 54, did not enter a plea in the case, but plans to plead "not guilty" before a Florida court at a hearing January 7, said Weil's attorney, Aaron Marcu.

"We are pleased that the court agreed that Mr. Weil should be released on bail," Marcu said in a message. "We look forward to sitting down to work with him on preparing his defense."

Weil was extradited to the United States on Friday, five years after his indictment by a federal grand jury for his alleged role in overseeing cross-border business for

UBS.

The Swiss national was arrested in mid-October after using his real name to check into a luxury hotel in Bologna.

The indictment against him alleges that Weil, who between 2002 and 2007 supervised UBS's overseas activities, and co-conspirators helped US customers conceal about \$20 billion in assets from tax authorities.

Swiss banks are believed to have accepted tens of billions of undeclared dollars from US citizens, and a number are under US investigation.

The conditions of Weil's bail include depositing \$4 million with the court as security, surrendering his passport and wearing an ankle bracelet, Marcu said. He is not permitted to leave the US.

## EU vows 'unprecedented' aid if Israel, Palestinians make peace

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Union on Monday pledged "unprecedented" levels of support to both Israel and the Palestinians should the two parties reach a final status agreement.

Commending US Secretary of State John Kerry for his efforts in launching direct talks between the two, EU foreign ministers said the 28-nation bloc would "contribute substantially" to post-conflict arrangements to ensure the sustainability of a peace deal.

"The EU will provide an unprecedented package of European political, economic and security support to both parties in the context of a final status agreement," the ministers said in a statement.

"In the event of a final peace agreement the European Union will offer Israel and the future state of Palestine a Special Privileged Part-

nership including increased access to the European markets, closer cultural and scientific links, facilitation of trade and investments as well as promotion of business to business relations.

"Enhanced political dia-

logue and security cooperation will also be offered to both states," the statement added.

The US State Department welcomed the announcement saying it made the future for Israel and the Palestinians "even brighter."

## Senate leans toward passage of US budget deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A bipartisan US budget deal looks increasingly likely to survive a crucial Tuesday test vote in the Senate, as Congress aims to end a legislatively miserable 2013 on a positive note.

Members of both parties acknowledge the vote will be a close one but on Monday it appeared there would be enough Republicans joining rival Democrats to head off attempts to block the measure, which has already passed the House of Representatives.

The accord, struck by Senate Democrat Patty Murray and House Republican Paul Ryan, lays out spending caps for the next two years and dramatically reduces the prospects of another government shutdown like the one that hog-tied Washington in October.



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## Obama to meet tech chiefs on surveillance

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama will Tuesday meet bosses of tech giants including Apple, Facebook, Google and Twitter to discuss US spy agency surveillance and his notorious health care reform website.

A White House official said Obama would talk to the Silicon Valley chieftains about progress in repairing the glitch prone website Healthcare.gov which has hampered the rollout of his signature domestic initiative.

"The meeting will also address national security and the economic impacts of unauthorized intelligence disclosures," the official said, adding that Obama also wanted to discuss how the tech sector could help unleash new economic growth and job creation.

Top executives at the talks will include Sheryl Sandberg of Facebook, Tim Cook of Apple, Marissa Mayer of Yahoo, Eric Schmidt of Google and Dick Costolo of

Twitter.

Obama is familiar with many of the people who will be in the meeting -- a number are high profile and wealthy supporters of his political campaigns.

But the revelations of a massive US spy snooping program on the Internet, leaked by fugitive US intelligence analyst Edward Snowden, have strained ties between the White House and the US tech sector.

Eight leading US-based technology companies last week called on Washington to overhaul its surveillance laws following the revelations of online eavesdropping in an open letter to Obama.

"The balance in many countries has tipped too far in favor of the state and away from the rights of the individual -- rights that are enshrined in our Constitution," they wrote.





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# Sweden PM wants to see prostitutes' clients in prison

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Sweden's conservative prime minister said Monday he wants to see the full extent of the law applied to some prostitutes' clients so they are not only fined, but thrown in prison too.

"It's time that we be clear that, in the legislation, prison terms can be given and that we don't only have fines as punishment for buying sex," Fredrik Reinfeldt said in a speech in Stockholm.

In 1999, Sweden became the first country in the world to criminalise the purchase of prostitutes' services.

Although the law provides for up to six months behind bars, in practice judges so far

only impose fines of up to 7,500 kronor (\$30 euros).

Similar legislation has since been adopted by Iceland, Norway and Slovakia and, soon, France.

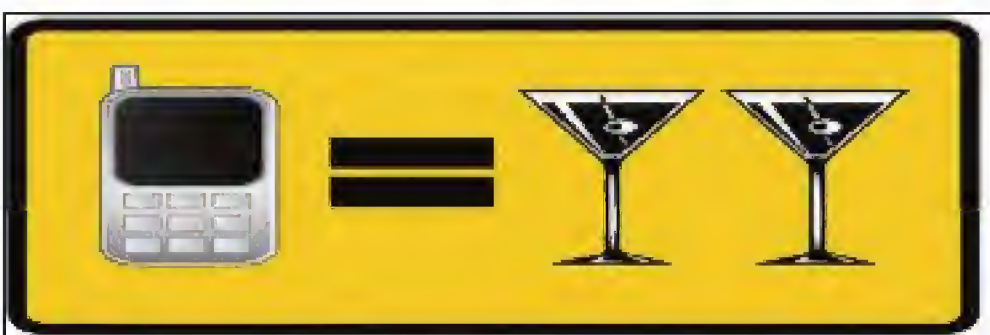
Reinfeldt said Sweden has convicted 4,782 people since its law came into effect, but that not one had gone to prison.

His Moderate Party, he said, would campaign to incarcerate clients who knew the prostitute they used was a minor or a victim of human trafficking.

He said there were an estimated 400 to 600 prostitutes in Sweden who were there because of traffickers.



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - An activist is detained by riot police during a demonstration near the Museu do Indio (Indian Museum) "Aldeia Maracana" (Maracana Village) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. The demonstrators, among whom there were some 30 Amazonian natives, seized the museum protesting against its scheduled demolition to continue the works in the Mario Filho "Maracana" stadium ahead of the FIFA WC Brazil 2014.



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# US transfers two Guantanamo detainees to Saudi Arabia



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Two inmates from the US prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba have been sent home to Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon said Monday, bringing the total number remaining there to 160.

President Barack Obama is trying to accelerate repatriations in order to close the prison, nearly 12 years after it was opened at a US naval base on the southeastern tip of the island.

The prison was opened in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States to house suspects captured by US forces and spies in anti-terror operations around the world.

Its use has been controversial and hurt the United States' global standing. Detainees have complained of mistreat-

ment, and many were held for years without trial while others faced military tribunals.

Lawmakers are debating measures to ease restrictions on sending detainees home or to third countries, but plans to close the facility have been thwarted by a ban on transferring them to US soil.

In the meantime, Obama's special envoys on closing the prison are working within the current regulations to send inmates home.

Saad Muhammad Husayn Qahtani and Hamood Abdulla Hamood were designated for transfer after a "comprehensive review" of their cases by an interagency task force, Pentagon spokesman Todd Brasseale said.

The Defense Department's special envoy for Guantanamo, Paul Lewis, said the

US and Saudi Arabia worked together to ensure "these transfers took place with appropriate security assurances and in a way that is consistent with our humane treatment policy."

"The US has made real progress in responsibly transferring Guantanamo detainees despite the burdensome legislative restrictions that have impeded our efforts," he said.

The State Department confirmed both men were Saudi nationals.

A Defense Department document said Hamood was 48 years old. A document released by anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks indicated that Qahtani was 35 years old.

A Pentagon official told AFP Monday there are still 15 Saudis in Guantanamo, some of whom are not eligible for release. Those include the self-declared mastermind of the September 11 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Since Obama took office, "around 80" detainees have been transferred out of the prison camp, the official said.

Before these latest transfers, there were 82 inmates, including 56 Yemenis, at Guantanamo who had been cleared for release.

A report by the Sudanese news agency indicates two more detainees are on their way home to Sudan.



## US calls for safety review of antibacterial soaps



WASHINGTON (AFP) - In response to health concerns over the widespread use of antibacterial soaps, US manufacturers will soon have to meet stricter requirements showing long-term safety, regulators said Monday.

Antibacterial soap-makers would also have to show that their products are better than plain soap at preventing illness and the spread of infections, said the proposed rule by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Antibacterial hand and dish soaps typically contain the chemicals triclosan and triclocarban, "which may carry unnecessary risks given that their benefits are unproven," the FDA said in a statement.

As many as 2,000 such soap products containing triclosan are for sale on the US market, an FDA spokeswoman said.

The chemical has been on the market for 40 years and is also present in toothpastes, household cleaning products, plastics and cosmetics.

Some studies have shown triclosan may affect thyroid, estrogen, and testosterone function in lab animals, and that it may boost resistance to common antibiotics.

Manufacturers have until the end of 2014 to submit the results of clinical trials on their

products, and the rule will be finalized in 2016, the FDA said.

The new requirements do not affect hand sanitizers, which are alcohol-based and do not require the use of water, or antibacterial products used in hospitals.

The FDA changes also do not mean antibacterial soaps products would vanish from the store shelves.

## France makes 21 arrests in new horsemeat scandal

NARBONNE (AFP) - French police made 21 arrests Monday as part of a probe into claims horsemeat used to help produce anti-rabies and other serums ended up on people's plates.

The case sparked immediate health concerns but prosecutors were quick to quell fears, saying there was no evidence the meat was harmful based on toxicology tests.

It follows a Europe-wide health scare earlier this year when horsemeat was found in millions of ready meals labelled as containing only beef.

The arrests were made at various locations in the south of France following a tip-off that 200 horses, including 60



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that had been owned by pharmaceutical giant Sanofi, ended up in abattoirs after their veterinary papers were falsified, a police source told AFP.

More than 100 officers were involved in raids at several Sanofi offices and at various abattoirs, including one in

Gerona in northern Spain.

Among those arrested were four vets and 13 meat dealers, including one based in Narbonne, southwestern France, who is suspected of being the ringleader of the illicit trade, prosecutors and police sources said.

A forger who faked health certificates for the horses was also involved.

Brice Robin, the prosecutor in the southern city of Marseille dealing with the case, said Sanofi -- which sold its animals to a horse dealer -- had done so "in an entirely legal manner".

It said the horses had been used to provide blood for the manufacture of serums against tetanus and rabies and stressed they had not been used for drugs testing.

Eating horsemeat is regarded as taboo in some European countries, notably Britain, but is still widespread in Belgium, France, Spain and Italy, although consumption is in long-term decline.

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## Cameron to film three Avatar sequels

WELLINGTON (AFP) - Director James Cameron announced Monday he will film three sequels to the record-breaking sci-fi blockbuster "Avatar" in New Zealand after striking a deal with the government for increased production subsidies.

The original "Avatar" was partially shot in New Zealand and its Oscar-winning special effects were created by Wellington's Weta Digital, best known for its work on Kiwi director Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies.

Cameron -- whose other hits include "Titanic", "Terminator" and "Aliens" -- refused to reveal how much he thought the three films would cost to make but said he hoped it would be less US\$1.0 billion.

Prime Minister John Key said securing the sequels was a coup that "will scream out to the world that New Zealand is a great place to make movies".



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## 'Hobbit' towers over competition at N. America box office



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The latest installment of the Tolkien epic series, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," claimed the top spot at the North American box office this weekend, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The second part of The Hobbit film trilogy, starring Ian

McKellen and Martin Freeman on a quest to reclaim the hobbit homeland -- earned a commanding \$73.7 million in its opening weekend, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The series, directed by Peter Jackson, follow on the heels of his mega-successful trilogy

adapted from J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings."

In distant second, with a still hefty \$22.2 million in ticket sales, was Disney animated musical "Frozen."

The 53rd movie in the Walt Disney Animated Classics series, which began with "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" in 1937, "Frozen" is loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale "The Snow Queen."

Another new release opened in third place: "A Madea Christmas," directed by and starring Tyler Perry in his recurring role as Madea, chronicles yet another adventure in the life of the tough, old woman. It earned \$16.2 million in its debut weekend.

That pushed the latest installment of the blockbuster "Hunger Games" franchise into fourth place with \$13.2 million, taking its overall earnings since its record opening four weeks ago to \$357 million in North America alone.

"Hunger Games: Catching Fire" stars Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, a teenager forced into a deadly battle for survival in the macabre post-apocalyptic kingdom of Panem.

Lagging well behind in fifth place was superhero flick "Thor: The Dark World," the latest movie based on Marvel's iconic comic book character,

which took in \$2.7 million.

The sixth place film, with \$2.3 million, was "Out of the Furnace," a thriller starring Christian Bale and Casey Af-

fleck as two brothers who are sucked into the criminal underworld as they attempt to break free from poverty.

## 'Family Guy' revives Brian the dog in Christmas 'miracle'



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Family Guy" fans celebrated Monday after the hit US television show resurrected Brian the dog, a main character since the series' 1999 launch who was apparently killed off last month. The show's creator Seth MacFarlane joked about the plot twist on Twitter, after Brian Griffin returned in an episode aired Sunday night in the United States. "And thus endeth our warm, fuzzy holiday lesson: Never take those you love for granted, for they can be gone in a flash," he wrote. "I mean, you didn't really think we'd kill off Brian, did you? Jesus, we'd have to be ... high," he added, using an expletive. The Griffin family replaced him with a new dog called Vinny -- who in Sunday's episode helped revive Brian in a storyline involving time travel by Stewie, the posh English-accented infant of the family.

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## Scientists help adapt Brazil farming to climate change



BRASILIA (AFP) - Hundreds of scientists are helping Brazil's giant agricultural sector prepare for the effects of climate change and anticipate pests that hit neighboring countries.

Spearheading the effort is the Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (Embrapa), a state agency tasked with developing and extending technology to support sustainable farming.

"We have 400 investigators currently focusing on how to adapt our agriculture to climate change," said Embrapa chief Mauricio Lopes.

"We have a tropical climate and it is the first to be affected by these variations."

Brazil, South America's biggest country in terms of size and population, has grad-

ually emerged as an agricultural powerhouse.

A net importer of farm products in the 1970s, it now ranks among the world's five top agricultural producers and exporters and serves as a model for many developing countries.

It ranks only second to the United States for biofuel production.

Lopes said Embrapa is studying the effects of rising temperatures on crops "30, 40, 100 years" from now.

"Where will we have to move coffee, sugarcane and corn production? We are carefully anticipating the potential impacts of climate change in areas where we are adapting the crops," he said.

This, he noted, include sophisticated experiments to try

to imitate the effects of rising greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and determine whether this will have a positive or negative impact on crops.

Embrapa also seeks to foster sustainable farming through public programs of low carbon emissions.

Agriculture, which represents 23 percent of GDP in the world's seventh largest economy, is a major source of greenhouse gases.

Embrapa also plays a major role in combating crop pests and diseases.

It has identified 489 such pests which affect neighboring countries or trade partners and which could enter Brazil.

Lopes said Embrapa researchers are therefore developing crop resistance and tolerance.

"Even before the scourge enters the country, we have the solution," said Embrapa researcher Marcio Elias Ferreira.

The agency is trying to bar the entry of crop diseases such as the armyworm, a common pest of grass which entered the country in 2001 and spread nationwide.

Embrapa is now focusing on a wheat pest that emerged in Africa five years ago, then moved into the Middle and is now in South America, although not yet in Brazil.

## French panel recommends legalising assisted suicide

PARIS (AFP) - A panel set up at the request of President Francois Hollande on Monday recommended legalising assisted suicide in France, where the debate on euthanasia has re-emerged after several end-of-life tragedies.

The suicides of two elderly couples in November and the heartwrenching testimony of a politician who watched her terminally-ill mother die after taking pills have shocked and moved France, where euthanasia is illegal.

"The possibility of committing medically assisted suicide... is, in our eyes, a legitimate right of a patient close to death or suffering from a terminal pathology, based first and foremost on their lucid consent and complete awareness", said the panel, made up of 18 citizens picked by polling firm Ifop to represent the population.

The so-called "Conference of Citizens" said the patient's lucidity would have to be evaluated by at least two doctors.

Hollande promised during his 2012 presidential campaign to look into legalising euthanasia, and has set up a series of consultations towards a potential bill, including the panel.

The "Conference of Citizens" said it was in favour of euthanasia in very specific circumstances, such as when the patient is not able to give his or

her direct consent, but ruled out legalising the practice as a whole.

The panel also called for more palliative care in France, where it said only 20 percent of people who need it have access to it.

Assisted suicide, which is legal in Switzerland, allows a doctor to provide a patient with all the necessary lethal substances to end their life, but lets them carry out the final act.

Euthanasia goes a step further, and allows doctors themselves to administer the lethal doses of medicine. This practice, legal in the Netherlands and Belgium, is the most controversial.

A 2005 law in France already legalises passive euthanasia, where a person causes death by withholding or withdrawing treatment that is necessary to maintain life.

In February, France's medical ethics council recommended that assisted suicide be allowed in exceptional cases.

The debate on euthanasia was revived last month when two couples in their 80s committed suicide in Paris and left notes explaining their acts.

They had ordered room service in the morning and were found by staff, lying hand in hand, with a typewritten note claiming "the right to die with dignity".



## US oil output to surge to 9.6 mn bd by 2016

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US oil production will continue its surge to hit a record 9.6 million barrels a day in 2016, the US Energy Department said Monday in its annual forecast.

Riding the gains in production from "tight" oil -- such as shale reserves tapped by hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, US crude output will add another 300,000 barrels a day over the next two years, the department's Energy Information Administration said.

After the 2016 peak, which will top the previous high set in 1970, oil production will stabilize and then begin tailing off beginning in 2020.

Natural gas production is expected to continue to surge mainly from fracking-based exploration, with the EIA predicting a rise of 56 percent be-

tween 2012 and 2040.

The forecast "shows that advanced technologies for crude oil and natural gas production are continuing to increase domestic supply and reshape the US energy economy as well as expand the potential for US natural gas exports," EIA administrator Adam Sieminski said in a statement.

The report projects improvement in the US energy balance to an economy becoming gradually less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

US oil production slipped as low as 5.1 million barrels a day in 2006, but topped 8 million in the first week of December.

US use of imported energy is seen falling from 16 percent of total consumption in 2012 to 4 percent in 2040.

## UN appeals for \$6.5bn for Syria crisis in 2014

GENEVA (AFP) - The United Nations appealed Monday for a record \$6.5 billion to help ever-growing numbers of victims of Syria's spiralling conflict next year, when refugee numbers are set to nearly double.

The impact and cost of the Syrian crisis "has exceeded all previous benchmarks," the UN said.

The Syrian appeal -- the most money ever requested to help victims of a single conflict -- makes up nearly half of the total \$12.9 billion (9.4 billion euros) the UN is asking for to provide emergency aid to some 52 million people in 17 countries worldwide next year.

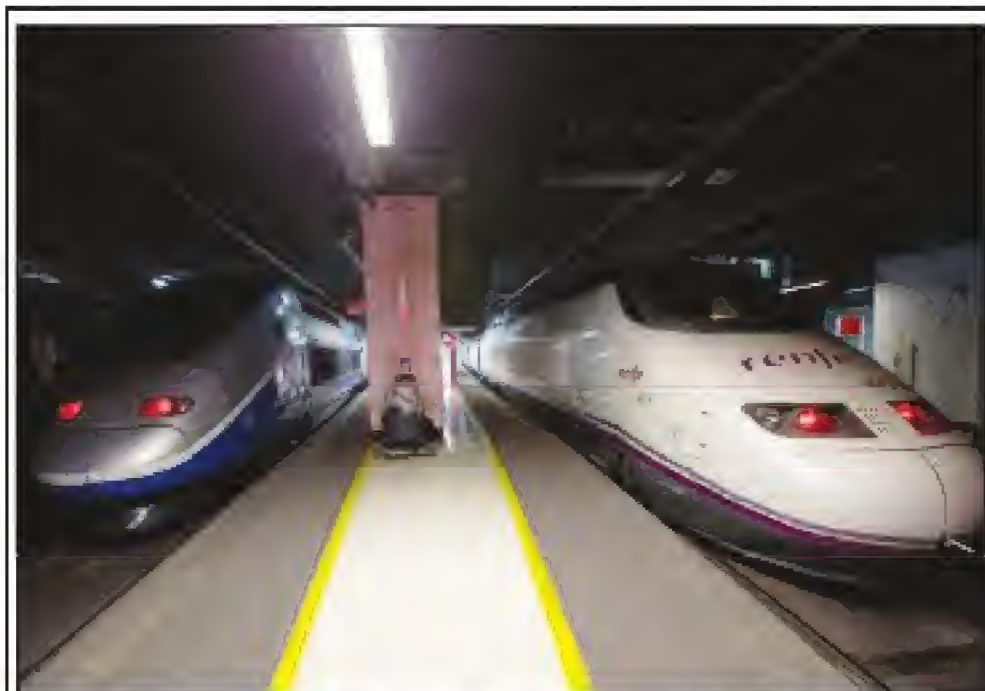
"This is the largest amount we have ever had to request at the start of the year," UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos told reporters in Geneva, adding that amid a range of complex conflicts raging in places like the Central African Republic, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo,

needs were expected to rise further throughout the year.

Last year, the UN agencies and other humanitarian aid organisations had appealed for \$3.5 billion for 2013, but upped that figure to \$13.4 billion in June. So far, they have received just \$8.0 billion, Amos said.

Explaining the hike for 2014, Amos pointed to the Syrian civil war, which has raged for 33 months and killed more than 126,000 people, with no end in sight.

That crisis has put an enormous strain on neighbouring countries, where hundreds of thousands of refugees are sheltering in tents as the winter sets in.



BARCELONA (AFP) - A picture shows the the first high speed TGV trains connecting France to Spain, jointly operated by French railway company SNCF and Spanish state railway company RENFE, leaving Barcelona on December 15, 2013. The new TGV rail line connecting France to Spain was inaugurated on December 15 with several months delay, and will connect the French cities of Paris, Lyon, Marseille, and Toulouse to Barcelona in Spain.

## US, EU hold third round of free-trade trade talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States and the European Union entered a third round of trade negotiations Monday in Washington aimed at creating a powerful free-trade bloc to boost their economies and jobs.

US and EU trade officials returned to the US capital, where the talks began in July, to hammer out the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, an ambitious agreement to expand trade, investment and regulatory cooperation.

Announced by President Barack Obama and EU leaders last February, the drive aims to further enhance the current trade relationship, which already averages low tariffs and is the world's largest, accounting for nearly half of global economic output.

Both sides see opportunities to reduce non-tariff trade barriers in a bid to stimulate new businesses and job growth.

Transatlantic trade and investment currently supports 13 million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic, and the US and the EU are continuing to suffer high unemployment in the

wake of the 2008 global financial crisis.

After last month's second round of TTIP talks in Brussels, officials reported progress in discussions on services and investment.

The new five-day round should set the ground for a political stock-taking by EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and US Trade Representative Michael Froman in early 2014, the EU said.

At stake are a range of issues, from food and aviation safety, to electric car standards and energy.

Among the major challenges facing the working-level teams -- headed by EU chief negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero and his US counterpart, Dan Mullaney -- is market access for financial services, with the Europeans in particular pushing for greater harmonization on regulations.

The EU wants "a better framework for regulators to cooperate," said an EU official who spoke recently on condition of anonymity. "It is important that standards (be established)... in as coordinated a fashion as possible"

but the United States was "not yet persuaded about that."

The US continues to argue that this issue should be addressed outside the trade deal, the official said.

EU thinks it can be achieved in the TTIP framework "without compromising regulators independence," the person close to the negotiations said.

The official said that negotiators have discussed energy, particularly gas imports, and the impact of hydraulic fracturing at every round so far, with the EU looking to ensure legal certainty with no restrictions on exports from the US to the EU.

The United States currently has a licensing regime for energy exports. The gas produced by the fracking revolution gives the US a potentially huge economic competitive advantage, the official said, insisting there was no reason for it to be reserved for US users.

The potential inclusion of an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) provision in the trade deal has drawn sharp criticism from US and European organizations and unions.

## China's holding of US debt tops \$1.3 trillion

WASHINGTON (AFP) - China's holding of US debt surged past \$1.3 trillion for the first time in October, worth nearly \$1,000 per Chinese citizen, US Treasury figures showed Monday.

And with Hong Kong thrown in, Chinese holdings of US bonds reached a record \$1.44 trillion, up from \$1.31

trillion a year earlier.

The creditor-debtor relationship of the world's two largest economies continued even as China hinted in October that it could slow its dollar accumulation due to the Washington political battle that had threatened a US default on its debt.

China has stepped up its warnings over the past year of the risks of huge US debt.

But with the two being each other's largest trading partner,

and China enjoying a massive surplus in bilateral trade, it continues to accumulate US Treasury bonds to prevent its currency from rising too fast.

The US currency accounted for nearly 40 percent of China's total foreign reserves of \$3.66 trillion at the end of the third quarter.

Japan remained the second-largest US creditor in October, holding \$1.17 trillion in US debt, up from \$1.13 trillion a year ago.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

W	A	T	T	S	C	A	N	T
A	R	C	H	I	E	O	W	E
B	E	C	O	M	E	R	O	M
C	A	R	P	A	R	L	O	R
S	T	U	B	S	H	E		
H	E	R	A		A	C	H	E
I	S	A		T	A	R	T	
E	D	I	T	H	S		W	O
G	O	B	I		P	L	E	A
O	L	E	S		C	I	T	I
S	E	T	H		A	V	O	I

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
12/16/2013				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.70
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.95
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	202.32
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	247.82
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.72
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.45
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.64
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	174.68
(per 10,000)				
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## COMICS

## PICKLES



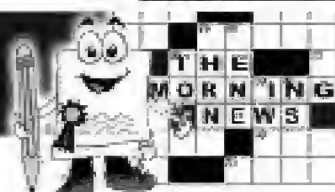
## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD

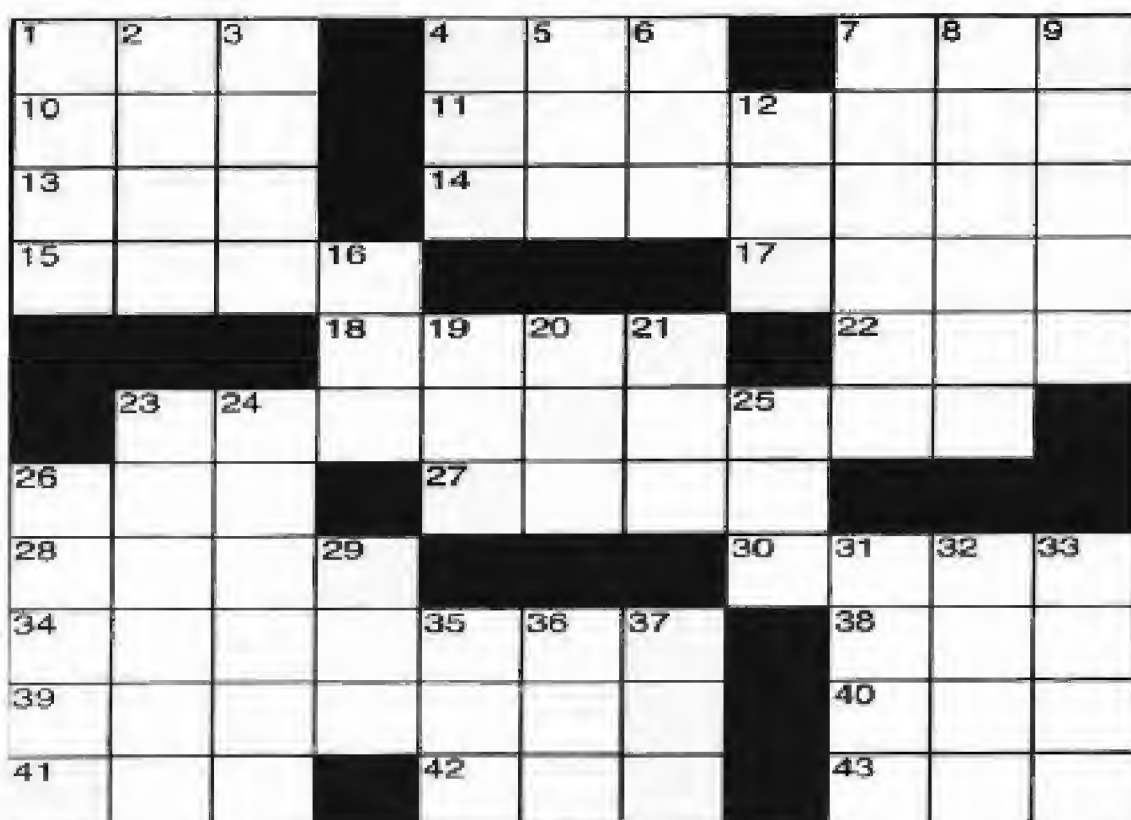


## CROSSWORD

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- 1 Under the weather  
4 Part of an encyclopedia set (abbr.)  
7 Container for coffee  
10 \_\_\_ Tse-tung  
11 Irreverent  
13 Drink slowly  
14 More pert  
15 Lyric verses  
17 Cherry-stone, e.g.  
18 Attain through
- 22 Road curve  
23 Moving mechanical parts  
26 Tyler of "Stealing Beauty"  
27 Moved rapidly  
28 "\_\_\_ something I said?" (2 wds.)  
30 Stubbing victims  
34 Picnic rest spot  
38 Colorado Indian

- 39 Shabbier (2 wds.)  
40 Bus depot (abbr.)  
41 "Yes" vote  
42 "Give \_\_\_ break!" (2 wds.)  
43 Caribbean souvenir
- DOWN**  
1 "\_\_\_ Tired" (2 wds.)  
2 Installed linoleum  
3 Easy gait  
4 Presidents' running mates (abbr.)  
5 "Are you a man \_\_\_ mouse?"  
6 Humorous Costello  
7 Author Norman  
8 Troubled  
9 Seeds  
12 Watchdog agcy.  
16 Moment, informally  
19 Cries of delight  
20 \_\_\_ Van Winkle  
21 Wind direction (abbr.)  
23 Lose, as one's keys  
24 Emulate Earhart  
25 New York time (abbr.)  
26 Zodiac sign  
29 Explosive (abbr.)  
31 Evict  
32 "Tell Mama" singer James  
33 Penn or Astin  
35 Actress Catrall  
36 Wide shoe width  
37 \_\_\_-la-la



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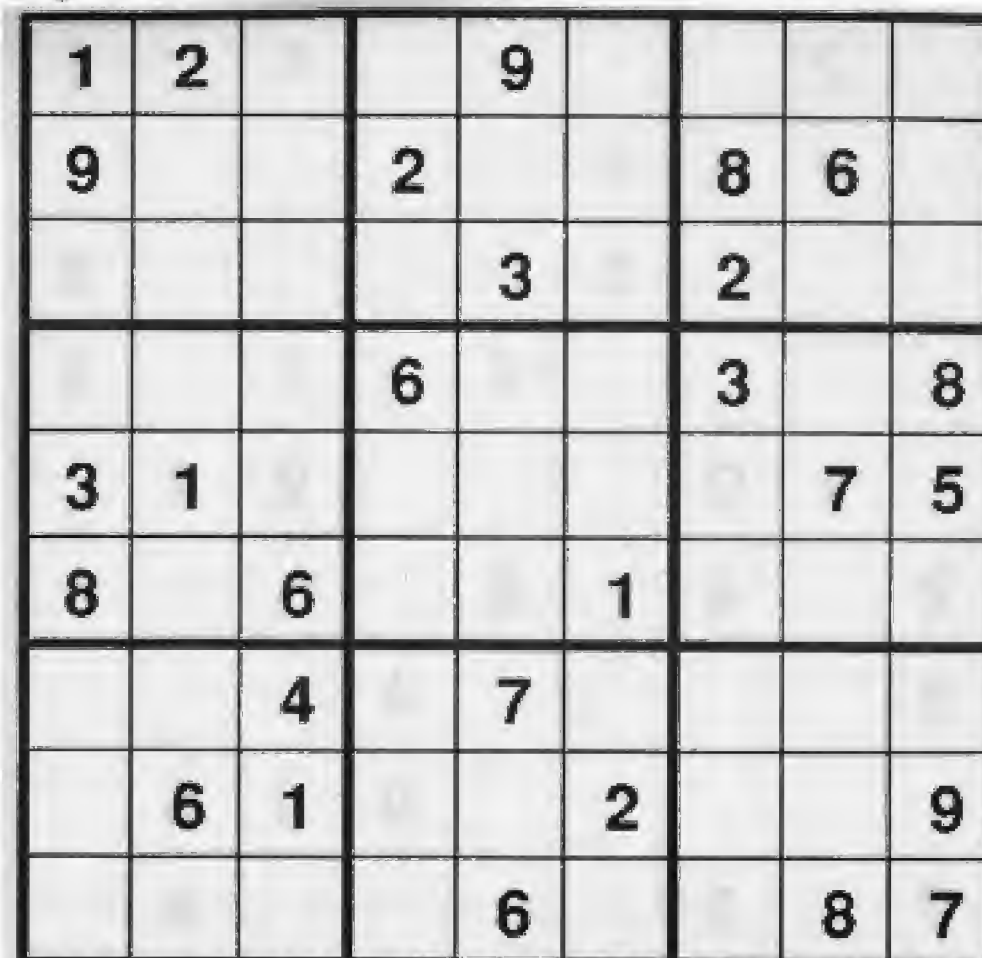
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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
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Telephone 911  
POLICE HDQS  
Telephone 100

TAXI  
C.V. TAS  
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	8	9	7	9	1	6	6	2
6	6	7	2	8	5	1	9	2
9	2	1	6	2	7	8	5	
2	7	6	1	5	6	9	2	8
5	2	9	6	7	8	2	1	6
8	1	6	2	2	9	6	5	7
1	8	2	9	5	2	9	7	9
7	9	8	5	1	2	2	6	6
6	5	2	9	6	7	8	2	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



**Delicious Breakfast**

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8am, patrons can now order 2

eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$ .79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to

make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.**

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heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.



## Football: Spurs sack Villas-Boas after Liverpool rout



LONDON (AFP) - Andre Villas-Boas has been sacked as manager of Tottenham Hotspur after 17 months in the role, the English Premier League club announced on Monday.

The news arrived a day after Spurs were thrashed 5-0 by Liverpool at White Hart Lane, which left the north London club five points below the Champions League places in seventh in the Premier League table.

Villas-Boas, 36, had also seen his side demolished 6-0 at Manchester City last month, despite Spurs having invested around £105 million (\$171 million, 124 million euros) on new players during the close season.

That expenditure was, how-

ever, offset by the sale of Gareth Bale to Real Madrid, but Spurs have scored just 15 goals in their 16 league games this season since the Welshman left the club.

Villas-Boas's dismissal represents his second consecutive failure at a London side as he was sacked by Chelsea in March 2012 after only nine months at the Stamford Bridge helm.

He joined Spurs the following July but despite leading the club to their highest points tally of the Premier League era last season (72), they missed out on a Champions League place to arch-rivals Arsenal.

Speaking after the drubbing by Liverpool, Villas-Boas had vowed that he would not walk away from the club.

"The call to make that decision is not mine because obviously I won't resign and I'm not a quitter," he said.

While Spurs have misfired in the league, they qualified for the last 32 in the Europa League after winning all six of their group games and were paired with Ukrainian side Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk in Monday's draw.

They are also due to play West Ham United in the quarter-finals of the League Cup on Wednesday.

Former Tottenham midfielder Tim Sherwood will lead an interim coaching staff while chairman Daniel Levy searches for Villas-Boas's permanent replacement.

In a short statement, Tottenham said: "The club can announce that Tim Sherwood, Chris Ramsey and Les Ferdinand will take charge of the first team whilst the club progresses discussions. Steffen Freund and Tony Parks continue as part of the coaching staff.

"Jose Mario Rocha, Luis Martins and Daniel Sousa leave the coaching staff and we wish them well for the future."

Villas-Boas becomes the fifth Premier League manager to lose his job this season.

## Football: Messi agents deny money laundering report

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi's agents denied Monday a Spanish

newspaper allegation that his father was suspected of being involved in laundering Colum-

bian drug money through charity football matches.

Leo Messi Management (LMM), whose president is the 26-year-old Argentine international's father, Jorge Messi, urged Spanish daily El Mundo to correct the story.

"Jorge Messi has never been connected to the case," LMM said in a statement.

El Mundo named the players as Barcelona's Messi, Dani Alves, Javier Mascherano and goalkeeper Jose Manuel Pinto.

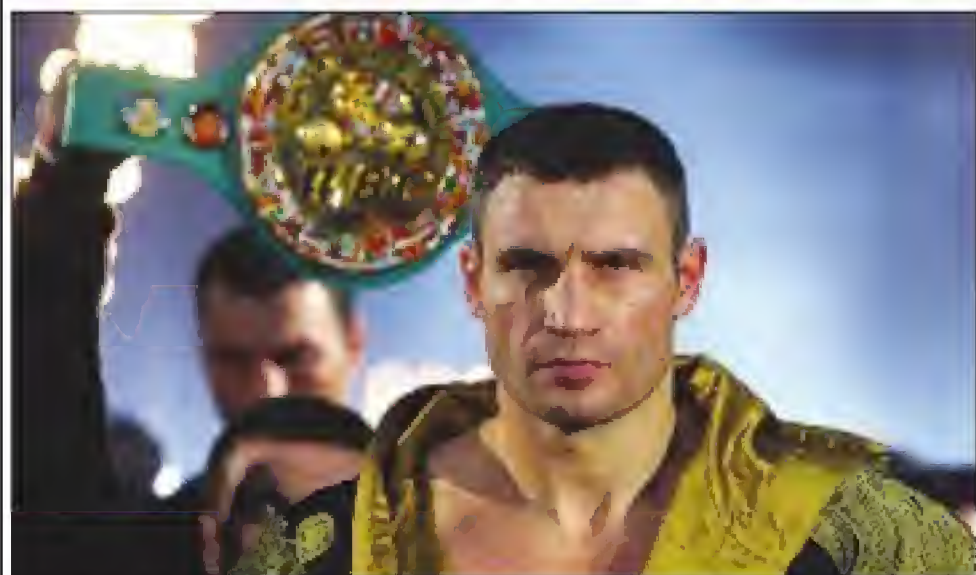
Barcelona coach Gerardo Martino said neither Lionel Messi nor his family were under any kind of investigation.

"Rumours cause damage when they are true but when they are not true they should not cause damage," Martino said.

Spanish police said they worked with Colombian security and the US Drug Enforcement Administration, arresting four people in the investigation, which began in April 2012.

Police said criminal charges had been laid against another eight people and four companies, and some 500,000 euros (\$690,000) in assets had been blocked.

## Boxing: Vitali Klitschko relinquishes WBC world title



PARIS (AFP) - Ukrainian opposition leader Vitali Klitschko announced on Monday he was relinquishing his WBC world heavyweight title so he can focus on his political career in Ukraine. The 42-year-old -- whose younger brother Wladimir is the WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight champion -- thanked the WBC for leaving open the opportunity for him to return to the ring by making him WBC Champion Emeritus. However, he all but ruled out that option as he intends to play a leading role in seeing present Ukraine president Viktor Yanukovich ousted in next year's presidential election. The WBC also issued a statement saying that by appointing him Emeritus Champion they were leaving the way open for him to return should he wish to.

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## Football Briefs:

RESULTS OF THE DRAW	
MANCHESTER CITY FC (ENG)	VS FC BARCELONA (ESP)
OLYMPIACOS FC (GRE)	VS MANCHESTER UNITED FC (ENG)
AC MILAN (ITA)	VS ATLETICO DE MADRID (ESP)
BAYER 04 LEVERKUSEN (GER)	VS PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN (FRA)
GALATASARAY A.S. (TUR)	VS CHELSEA FC (ENG)
FC SCHALKE 04 (GER)	VS REAL MADRID CF (ESP)
FOOTBALL CLUB ZENIT (RUS)	VS BORUSSIA DORTMUND (GER)
ARSENAL FC (ENG)	VS FC BAYERN MUNCHEN (GER)

NYON (AFP) - A screen shows the result of the draw for the last 16 of the UEFA Champions league tournament at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon yesterday. First leg will be on 18-19 & 25-26 February 2014, while the Second leg from 11-12 & 18-19 March 2014. The 2014 UEFA Champions League Final will be played at the Estádio da Luz in Lisbon, Portugal. Bayern Munich are the defending champions.

RESULT OF THE DRAW	
FC DINAMO (UKR)	VS TOTENHAM HOTSPUR (ENG)
REAL BETIS (ESP)	VS FC RUJAN VOGAN (SRB)
SWANSEA CITY FC (ENG)	VS SSC NAPOLI (ITA)
JOVENTUS (ITA)	VS TRABZONSPOR (TUR)
NR MARIBOR (SVN)	VS SEVILLA FC (ESP)
VICTORIA PIZDA (CZE)	VS SHAKHTAR DONETSK (UKR)
FC CHORNOMORETS (UKR)	VS OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS (FRA)
S.S. LAZIO (ITA)	VS FC LUDOGORETS 1945 (BUL)
ESJERG 18 (DEN)	VS ACF FIORENTINA (ITA)
FC AJAX (NED)	VS FC SALZBURG (AUT)
MACCABI TEL-AVIV (ISR)	VS FC BASEL 1893 (SUI)
FC PORTO (POR)	VS EINTRACHT FRANKFURT (GER)
FC ANDI (RUS)	VS VSC GENK (BEL)
FC DYNAMO KYIV (UKR)	VS VALENCIA CF (ESP)
PAOK FC (GRE)	VS EL MANICFA (MAR)
SLOVAN LIBEREC (CZE)	VS AZ WAG

NYON (AFP) - A television screen shows the results of the draw for the round of 32 of the UEFA Europa League tournament at the UEFA headquarters in Nyon yesterday. There are three qualifying rounds and a play-off phase before the group stage, which consists of 12 groups of four teams who play each other home and away in autumn 2013. The knockout stage follows in spring 2014, with the final taking place at the Juventus Stadium on 14 May. A country's representation in the UEFA Europa League is determined by its UEFA coefficient ranking, which is calculated over a five-year basis.



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## NBA: Blazers' Leonard, 76ers Orton suspended over scuffle



NEW YORK (AFP) - Portland Trail Blazers center Meyers Leonard and Philadelphia 76ers center Daniel Orton were both suspended for one game by the NBA for a scuffle during a game on Saturday.

The altercation occurred during the fourth quarter of the Trail Blazers' 139-105 victory, when Leonard slammed Orton to the court as they jockeyed for position.

Orton retaliated with an elbow to Leonard's mouth.

Leonard served his penalty Sunday, sitting out Portland's 111-109 overtime win at Detroit.

Damian Lillard was the hero for Portland in that one.

The second-year point guard hit the game-winning jump shot with less than a second left in overtime.

With the score knotted at 109-109, Lillard drove the lane, spun right and drained the shot.

Philadelphia were idle on Sunday, so Orton missed the 76ers' game at Brooklyn on Monday.

In Charlotte, Kobe Bryant nailed a pair of free throws with 37 seconds left as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Charlotte Bobcats 88-85 Saturday for their first win since Bryant's return.

In his fourth game after sitting out eight months following surgery to repair a torn Achilles tendon, Bryant also netted 21 points.

The Lakers closed the game on a 9-0 run.

## Brazil Taekwondo Foundation rewards outstanding athletes



1. Outstanding infant athlete for 2013: Rasheed Lowe
2. Outstanding masculine Cadet for 2013: Hakeem Lowe
3. Outstanding feminine Cadet for 2013: Tiarra Petrocchi
4. Outstanding Rooky for 2013: Danon Delamore
5. Outstanding Referee of 2013: Grand Master Chaco Jose Cornelio
6. Most disciplined infant athlete for 2013: Danon Delamore
7. Most disciplined Youth athlete for 2013: Iryaahim Delamore
8. Most tickets sold for all activities during 2013: Marwin Lont

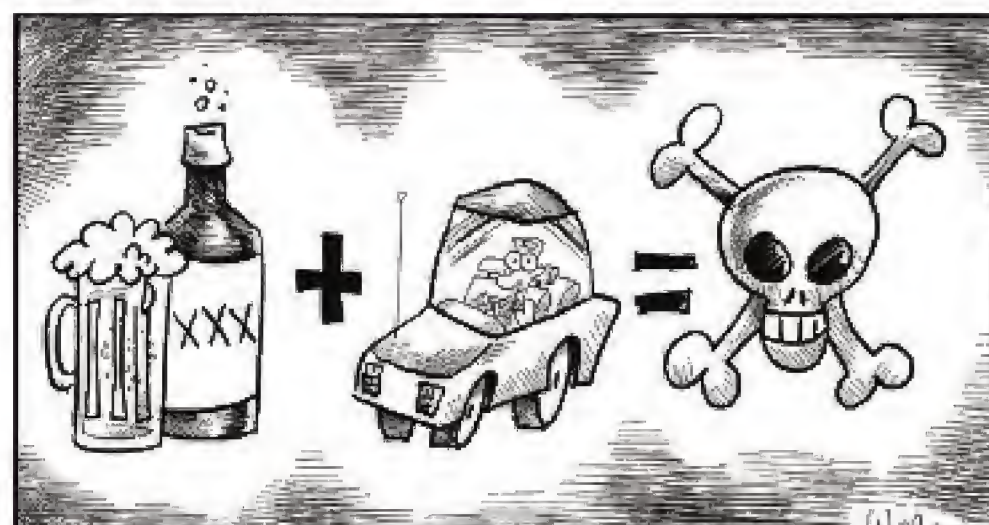
**Congratulations to All and keep the Good Job in 2014!!**

ORANJESTAD - This past year the Brazil Taekwondo participated at many national and international championships with every championship having its own level and category. This year the Foundation travelled more than past year attempting to reach the highest level in championships and to measure their athletes.

In Aruba championships were organized by Eric Barry of the San Nicolaas Taekwondo Center and Theo Rodriguez of the Tiger Taekwondo Academy. Brazil Taekwondo Foundation participated with the Train Hard Fight Smart Team. There is al-

ways an athlete who will excel above the others. Hence, in December they met to decide who gets special awards for excelling during the year.

The following are the athletes who received special recognition and awards:



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## EU to probe 7 Spanish football clubs

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission will on Wednesday launch a formal investigation into seven Spanish football clubs, including Barcelona and Real Madrid, after complaints they accepted illegal state aid, Spain's foreign minister said.

The EU's executive declined to comment when contacted by AFP on Monday.

Competition Commissioner Joaquín Almunia announced in April that the complaints concerned Barcelona, Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao, Osasuna (Pamplona), Valencia, Hercules (Alicante) and Elche.

Foreign Minister José Manuel García-Margallo told a press briefing after talks with EU colleagues on Monday the government in Madrid had been informed of a comprehensive inquiry.

It would be the first step to a procedure for violation of EU rules and could lead to sanctions if these rules were in fact broken.

Madrid appeared concerned about the consequences of the Brussels decision and García-Margallo said the government would "defend the clubs to the end".

The focus of the investigation is on whether the tax rate imposed on Real Madrid, the FC Barcelona, Athletic Bilbao and Osasuna complies with European law.

Brussels is also looking into loans granted by the Valencian Community to Valencia, Hercules and Elche.

And Almunia wants the investigation to clarify whether or not Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao real estate operations were proper.

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## Aruba Olympic committee delineates plans for 2014

ORANJESTAD - Last Thursday evening in the presence of almost all member federations, the budget and management plans for 2014 of the Aruba Olympic Committee was presented. These were unanimously approved. The 19 out of 24 member federations present provided their support for the COA board to continue managing the organization in favor of sports on Aruba. Every year COA celebrates two assemblies, one holds the general meetings with all 24 member federations. In this first assembly the

financial report is reviewed, while in the second half of the year the second assembly deals with the budget and the management plan for the coming year.

In this assembly, COA President, Edwin Roos reviewed the year 2013 and expressed that in general this was a good year. Roos also indicated the areas where improvement can be made. Treasurer Jair Tromp presented the budget for 2014, which was approved by the federations present.

Secretary General, Nicolle Hoevertz presented the Man-

agement plan for 2014, delineating the goals both internal and external for the coming year. She also explained the projects and activities in the program for next year. The basis for the management plan for 2014 is the Strategic Plan. A Technical Strategic Plan has been prepared for 2013-2016.

For Sports on Aruba to progress we need several elements with which to work, such as a management of high level, technology, athletes of high caliber and high caliber training. The assistance that COA receives from the Organ-

ization Deportivo Panamericano (ODEPA), helps Aruba's athletes and trainers to be much better prepared for the regional, continental and Olympic games.

In 2014 COA will be very occupied in view of their participation at four games, the ODESUR games, Festival Olimpico Panamericano and the Youth Games as well as the CAC Games.

Other personalities at the assembly were Patrick Werleman and Angelique Koolman who deal with the matter of doping in sports. Two new

persons present were Abelardo Pachecho who spoke about the technical planning, while Ricardo Vargas dealt with sports medicine.

Finally Esther Williams was elected as Commissioner in the COA board, completing the board of nine persons. The board now consists of six women and three men.

Finally they cited a word of inspiration for all federations present, namely, "If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done."